









be considered by those who fought for the adoption and exist in the acceptance of the clause, for if closely followed it will lead to startling conclusions.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

It will be seen from our cable news that Sir Henry Parker has lost no time in addressing the New York Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the commercial relations between Australia and the United States. Another outpour on a British officer has occurred in Asiatic Turkey, but it is said to have resulted through a misunderstanding. Mr. F. Egan, a noted Jesuit, has been invited by the R. C. priesthood to examine the election for County Meath. It is likely that the British Government will reconsider the subject of the Channel Tunnel. It would seem that the probability of the closure proposals of the Government being carried are improved. The statements respecting Mr. Errington, the member for Longford, being sent on a mission to the Vatican are denied by the Government, though the Opposition affirm that it is true, and that his expenses are paid out of the Secret Service Fund.

The Supreme Court, yesterday, judgment was given for the Government in the special case of *James v. Robertson*, the Court holding that the only compensation which the Government gave under the Public Railways Land Resumption Act of 1871 is the value of the land and the improvements taken. The injury to the land by cutting in two by the person which the Government have resumed for railway purposes is not the subject of compensation in valuations under that Act, though it would be if the valuations were made under the Railway Act of 1860. In a notice for a new trial in *Pearson v. Stevens*, it was decided that a purchaser from the Sheriff of a conditional purchase of which the conditions were not fulfilled, was not excepted by section 18 of the Amendment Act of 1875 from the performance of the condition of the trial in *Jenkin v. Jenkins*. The trial of the sensational case *Rumpf v. Hicks* is still pending.

The manager of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand has forwarded to us for general information, a copy of a cable message received yesterday afternoon, with reference to the quarantine restrictions in force in New Zealand:—“Proclamation signed, announcing Sydney free port, will be gazetted to-morrow.” He adds, that this pleasing intelligence will enable the company to resume the through forty-eight steamers from New Zealand ports via Auckland, and that passengers will no longer be compelled to undergo successful vaccination before embarking from Sydney.

The following is yesterday's report of the Board of Health in regard to smallpox:—“The medical superintendent of the Coast Hospital and Sanatorium reports that Charles Blearley is seriously ill, being very restless and delirious. Edith Blearley passed a restless night. Mr. Blearley is not so well to-day. All other patients are progressing very favourably. Albert Corydon was transferred this afternoon to the Sanatorium, where all inmates are in good health and spirits.”

Wires regard to the complaints that have been made respecting the nightsoil nuisance, our attention was directed yesterday to the plan for the disposal of nightsoil adopted by the Municipal Council of St. Leonards. Is that municipality the nightsoil is carried on to the public reserve, and there buried in such a manner that no nuisance is prevented, and a valuable manure provided for the trees with which the reserve has been planted. The reserve consists of 40 acres of ordinary bush land, which has been planted with a double row of ornamental trees at the outer edge of the ground, and rows of similar trees in various directions across the ground, so that when the trees grow to their full height the walk may be shaded by the branches and leaves. It is in close proximity to the trees where the nightsoil is deposited. A man who is employed by the council to attend to the reserve digs trenches, each of which is 18 inches deep, and sufficiently large to hold a cartload of nightsoil, and into these trenches the nightsoil is put, and then covered with the earth which has been dug out in preparing the trenches. This plan effectively disposes of the nightsoil, for it is removed from both sight and smell, and as the trees of that kind known as “green feelings,” their roots quickly take up the fecal matter, and the trees thrive rapidly. The moulds which show where the nightsoil has been buried are not disturbed for some months, and then it is found that the nightsoil has become thoroughly mixed with the ordinary soil of the reserve, and the ground is levelled to what it was before the trenches were dug. For the labour expended in digging, the trenches who earn the nightsoil upon the reserve are charged 2/- a load, and though the nightsoil are not heavily charged, care is taken that their work is carried out without any carelessness, and as from nothing of an objectionable nature as is possible. The service is of sufficient extent to meet the requirements of the municipality with respect to the nightsoil question for many years to come, and as the plan adopted in this matter is one that has proved very successful, it is worth the attention of those who are interested in the subject that Mr. Fremin, M.L.A., brought before the notice of the public a few days ago.

At the meeting of the finance committee of the Sydney Municipal Council, yesterday, attention was drawn incidentally to the complaints regarding the depositing of night soil at Botany, and the injurious effects it is likely to have upon the health of residents in the district. The subject has frequently engaged the attention of the municipal authorities, and various suggestions have been made to remove the evils complained of. Much difficulty is experienced in the matter in consequence of suburban residents opposing the carrying of the soil to or even through their thoroughfares, and also in consequence of the limited number of areas at the disposal of the Corporation for receiving it, and the difficulty is not likely to be removed until a metropolitan system of sewage has been completed. Not long since the Corporation officials were instructed to ascertain whether the sewage could be collected for having not only the soil but kitchen and other refuse to set aside, and pending the bringing up of a definite decision, A. D. Hornsby presented a petition from a number of butchers, asking that proceedings against them for slandering or keeping small stock on their premises might be stayed until their applications for licenses had been considered and disposed of. It is not usual to dispose of petitions upon their presentation, but in this instance some of the aldermen considered the matter sufficiently important to deserve immediate attention, and a suggestion was made that the application of the petitioners be referred to the Mayor. The Mayor, however, remarked that he could not interfere in the matter, and that the law therefore must take its course.

At the invitation of Captain Hilliard, of the Orient Steamship Company, the members of the New South Wales and Victorian cricket teams, bound on board that vessel yesterday evening. Several stars were present, including “The Captain and Officers of the ‘Victorian’” and “The Victorian Team,” presented by Mr. Gregory, and responded to by Captain Hilliard, and “The Victorian Team,” presented by Mr. Gregory, and responded to by Captain Hilliard. The New South Wales was most trusted, and a very pleasant evening was brought to a termination by the singing of several songs.

At the Central Criminal Court yesterday morning during the hearing of a case arising out of the fire at the barracks Manhegan, at Newcastle, an intelligent looking mulatto, named George Dunbar, was called as a witness. After the trial had been heard, he refused to take the oath, or to give evidence. The presiding Judge informed him that if he refused to give evidence he would be guilty of contempt of Court, for which offence he might be punished. Dunbar replied that he was perfectly well aware of the consequences; and as he still persisted, after being allowed a few moments' consideration, in his refusal to give evidence, his Honor ordered him to be removed, and he would consider how the matter should be dealt with. Dunbar, who is undergoing a sentence for desertion from the Manhegan, was then removed in custody. About two hours later, he was again brought into court; and when asked if he would take the oath, he coolly replied, after considerable hesitation, “Oh, yes; I'll swear.” His Honor told him that if he said anything which indicated trifling with the Court, or any attempt at prevarication, it would be promptly punished. He said he would not do anything of that kind, and he then gave his evidence. Dunbar, who was stated by the

chief officer of the Manhegan to be the son of a wealthy West Indian planter, gave as his reason for at first refusing to swear, a breach of faith on the part of the captain, who had promised not to proceed against the man for desertion, and he had been reckless, and thought he might as well spend a couple of years in gaol as anywhere else. The captain denied any such breach of faith, and his Honor pointed out that in any case the man, although guilty of a breach of discipline, for which he was punished, was not a criminal, and there was no reason why such an intelligent man should not quickly recover his position upon his release from prison. Dunbar listened respectfully, and appeared disposed to pay due attention to the kindly advice he received from the larger.

At the adjourned inquest concerning the death of Mr. J. G. Thurlow, late C.P.S. at the Central Police Station, Mr. Captain Hickox (president), Broome, Jenkins, Mr. Captain Robertson, and Commander Lindeman (secretary); and the only case taken was one which arose from the Bremen and Adalena, on the 10th February instant, from the effects of a self-administered dose of strichnine, which he obtained in the establishment of Mr. Woodhouse, chemist and druggist, William-street, on the night of the 6th instant.” They further added as a rider:—“We are of opinion that Dr. Power deserves great censure for his inhumanity in not going out to see the deceased when he was requested to do so.”

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